GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Impact of Demonetisation on Tea Industry
Wanaga Shri Chintaman Navsha

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of demonetisation on the tea industry;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the number of workers/ jobs affected or likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 380 FOR ANSWER ON 12th DECEMBER, 2016 REGARDING "IMPACT OF DEMONETISATION ON TEA INDUSTRY"

(a) to (c): Though no specific study has been conducted by the Government to assess the impact of demonetisation on the tea industry, an arrangement has been made by the State Government of Assam wherein directives have been issued to the District Administration to get wage amount deposited by estate owners in the account of District Administration and in turn concerned District Administration hand over cash to the garden management for wage payment to workers. Similar arrangements have also been made by the State Governments of West Bengal and Kerala for withdrawal of money through treasury for the payment of wages to the workers.In Tamil Nadu, arrangements are being made for opening of bank accounts for all workers and transfer of wages to such bank accounts. The banks concerned will deliver the wage in cash through their 'banking correspondents'.
Tea Board is also coordinating with the State Governments of the tea growing States for facilitating smooth payment of wages to Tea Garden Workers. It has also requested the State Governments and the Tea Producers Associations for opening of new accounts under the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana for all individual workers/employees engaged in tea plantation by end of December, 2016. Reserve Bank of India has also directed the banks to open accounts for Tea/Coffee and other plantations workers, in a camp mode, with concentrated payment locations.
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